

ATOMYRIA JACOBSON
(COLEOPTERA, EUMOLPINAE),
A GENUS NEW TO AFRICA

By B. J. SELMAN

Amongst a collection of beetles from N. W. Africa and the Madeira Isles sent to me for determination by J. МАТЕУ were a series of eleven individuals of the genus *Atomyria*. Ten of these had been collected at night, attracted by a lamp while the eleventh was collected on the desert shrub, *Tamarix*. They proved to belong to the genus *Atomyria* formerly only known from South West Asia.

Genus *Atomyria* Jacobson

JACOBSON, 1894. *Dt. ent. Z.*, p. 102.

Type species : *A. persica* (Baly) by present designation.

This small genus has so far contained only two species, *A. persica* (Baly) from Persia and *A. sarafschanica* (Solsky) from Taschkent in Turkestan. *A. persica* was transferred from the genus *Bedelia*, and *A. sarafschanica* from the genus *Nodostoma*.

Now a third species is described from the Western Sahara in N. Africa, the first time that the genus *Atomyria* has been recorded from Africa. The known distribution of *Atomyria* now corresponds very closely with the distribution of the Tamarisk species. *Atomyria* is very close to the African genera *Afroerydemus* Selman and *Zohrana* Aslam, a genus better known under the name *Liniscus* Lefevrea. Both these genera are confined to the Ethiopian region south and south-east of the Sahara (SELMAN, 1965). The following key separates the three genera.

1. a) Elytra elongate and at least X1.43 as long at the mid-line as wide across the humeri 2
- b) Elytra broader, and not more than X1.42 as long at the mid-line as wide across the humeri, elytra at the mid-line less than X2.5 as long as the hind tibia, legs-elongate and stout, pronotum not hood-like..... *Afroerydemus*
2. a) Elytra at the mid-line more than X2.5 as long as the hind tibia, pronotum hood-like, head turned under, legs short and stout..... *Zohrana*
- b) Elytra at the mid-line less than X2.5 as long as the hind tibia, claws bifid, the second tooth so small that the claws superficially appear to be simple, pronotum almost hood-like, head turned under, legs elongate and stout.. *Atomyria*

Atomyria mateui sp. n.

Length : 4.0 — 4.8 mm. *Colour* : a uniform mid-brown, the elytral suture often darker, some specimens with a pair of small lateral black patches on the pronotum and/or a small black patch on the epicranial suture at the back of the head ; still fewer specimens with a pair or prominent black patches halfway down the elytra. *Head* : densely but shallowly punctured, interstices shiny, fronto-clypeus wider than long, anterior margin not emarginate, frontal and epicranial sutures very fine and obscure, epicranial suture from the front view extending to a point below the top of the eyes, eyes very large and convex, lightly emarginate, a narrow, shallow suture above, ♂ with eyes X1.7 — 1.9 wider than they are apart, ♀ with smaller eyes which are wider apart, antennae filiform, reaching just over halfway down the clytra, segment two short, three longer than two, four a little longer than three, one longer than four and equal to five to ten, eleven longer than one and X2 as long as two. *Thorax* : pronotum X1.40 — 1.45 as wide as long, posterior edge X1.05 — X1.12 as long as anterior edge, sides evenly curved, maximum width at mid point X1.35 the length of the anterior edge, surface strongly convex, almost humped, punctures numerous, broad and shallow, interstices smooth and shiny, lateral arms of prosternum slightly concave ; legs, anterior femora with a well developed ventral tooth, mid and hind femora with very small teeth, claws bifid, the second tooth so small that the claws superficially appear to be simple. *Scutellum* : as wide at the base as long, smooth shiny impunctate. *Elytra* : shiny and very smooth, humerus well developed, basal area less raised, punctures small, shallow, close together, the rows sometimes a little irregular, interstices flat.

Holotype ♂ : Algeria, Beni-Abbès, N. W. Sahara, 9.v.1965, (R. GAUTHIER), at light ; in the Mus. Nat. Hist. Nat. Paris.

Paratypes : one ♂, Algeria, Beni-Abbès, N. W. Sahara, 4.xi.63, ex *Tamarix* sp. nr. *gallica* ; one ♂, one ♀, Algeria, Beni-Abbès, N. W. Sahara, 9.v.1965, at light ; all collected by R. GAUTHIER in the Brit. Mus. (Nat. Hist.) London.

Paratypes : 2 ♂, 1 ♀, Algeria, Beni-Abbès, N. W. Sahara, 9.v.1965, (R. GAUTHIER), at light ; 1 ♂, 19.iv.1965 ; 1 ♀, 6.v.1965 ; 1 ♀, 24.iv.1963, data as above ; in the Mus. Nat. Hist. Nat., Paris.

Atomyria mateui sp. n. is very similar to *A. persica* (Baly) but has the eyes closer together, the setae much smaller, and the dark markings less clearly defined, the inner pair of thoracic markings obscure, the outer pair very small.

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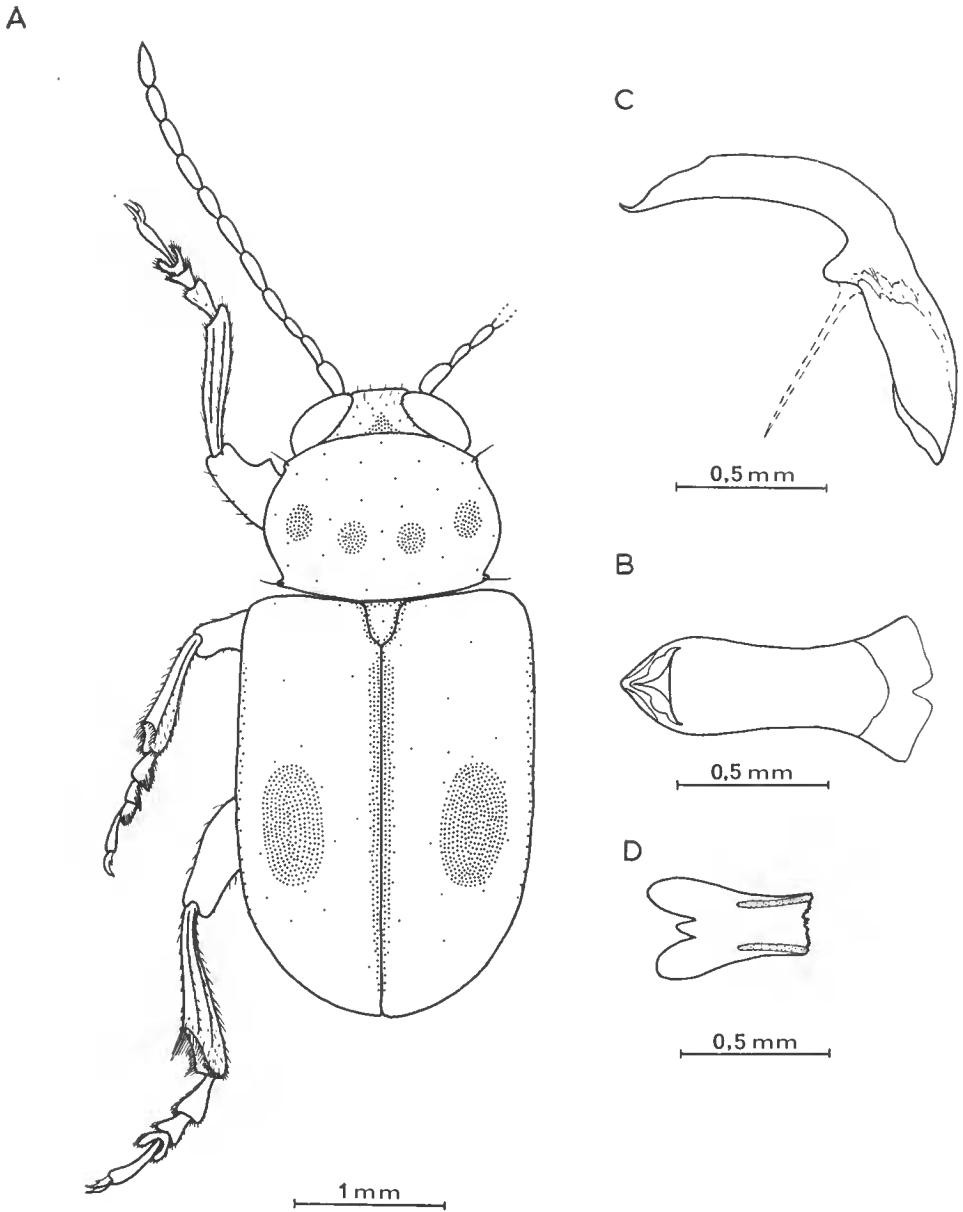


FIG. 1. — *Atomyria mateui* sp. n.

A, ♂; B, phallobase, dorsal view; C, phallobase, side view, ventral apodeme dotted; D, ventral apodeme removed from phallobase.